



THE WRITING ACADEMY®, LLC

Module 3

Magnifying Reasons for WHY Prompts

Grade 3 · Cluster 3



Tackling TEKS · Reading & Writing

3.12B · 3.11A



★ Meet Our Week!

Week 3 · High Stamina

★ Daily Deck

I Will...

- I will brainstorm many reasons before I choose.
- I will group like-minded reasons.
- I will narrow each group into one big idea.
- I will write three topic sentences that support my thesis (central idea).
- I will connect each topic sentence to evidence, explanation, and significance.

I Can...

- I can gather more than one idea.
- I can tell which ideas belong together.
- I can name the big idea in a group.
- I can write a clear topic sentence for each reason.
- I can make sure my three reasons are different.

★ A Room Full of Ideas

Day 1 · Gather & Reveal

★ Daily Deck

Why We Need Laws

poem

How can brainstorming, grouping, and narrowing many reasons help us write three different topic sentences that build the body of an ECR?

Imagine you are standing in a giant room full of ideas. Ideas are everywhere.
Some are loud. Some are tiny.

Today we become idea collectors, idea sorters, and idea narrowers.

★ Dot the Tricky Words

Day 1 · Gather & Reveal

★ Daily Deck

D

Dot

Place a small dot above any word you are not sure about yet.

O

Discover

Discover the meaning as we learn together through our lessons.

T

Drop

Erase the dot once you know what the word means.

A little dot above a word means:
“I’m not sure about this word yet.”

Dot the word. Discover the meaning. Drop the dot, then celebrate when you own it!

★ How to Magnify a Reason!

Day 1 · Reveal

★ Daily Deck

1

Gather

Brainstorm many possible reasons.

2

Group

Put like-minded reasons together.

3

Narrow

Name the big idea in each group.

Gather, Group, Narrow, Choose, Say It.

Several small ideas can help you find one strong paragraph-sized reason.

★ Watch Me Build It!

Day 1 · Reveal (cont.)

★ Daily Deck

Three Buckets

Red Bucket: Conflict

Blue Bucket: Fairness

Green Bucket: Safety/Order

Watch Me!

Prompt: Laws were needed because people argued, fairness was lost, and problems grew without rules.

Model: Laws were needed because they helped stop arguments and prevent conflicts from growing.

Each topic sentence supports our thesis (central idea).

★ WHY Do We Need Rules?

Day 2 · Attempt · Partner Game

★ Daily Deck

Why We Need Laws

How to Play

- 1 Draw a reason card from the Practice Pocket and read it aloud.
- 2 Open Think About It and add another possible reason.
- 3 Use Sort It to place the card with like-minded ideas; explain the choice.
- 4 Use Shrink It to name the group's big idea.
- 5 Use Say It to rehearse or refine its topic sentence.

Success Check: *Finish by checking that the final three topic sentences come from different groups.*

Flip the Flap

Task Card

One reason we need rules is because people may disagree.

Answer

People disagree; things are not fair; people need to stay safe.

Why is brainstorming many reasons helpful before choosing only three?

How did grouping your reasons help your thinking become clearer?

Why should your three final reasons come from separate groups?

What happens if your topic sentences all say almost the same thing?

When has a rule helped you avoid a disagreement, share fairly, or stay safe?

Student Directions: “Explain which group fits your example.”

Why is brainstorming many reasons helpful before choosing only three?

Brainstorm

Group

Narrow

Grouping helps separate details from bigger ideas.



Try It On Your Own!

Day 3 · Use (Independent Practice) · Interactive Notebook

1

Brainstorm many possible reasons from the poem. Keep the list visible.

2

Group the reasons into three labeled spaces: Conflict, Fairness, and Safety/Order.

3

Write your final three topic sentences, one per group.

If two topic sentences share a bucket, return and choose a different big idea.

★ Award & Target!

Day 4 · Award & Target

★ Daily Deck

Award 🏆

Point to a part of your own work that shows a strength.

- One thing I did well as a writer today was...
- Next time I want to get better at...
- One HABIT I will keep using is...

Target 🎯

Next time I want to get better at...

Curiosity Questions

What would happen if I skipped the grouping step?



Exit Ticket

Day 5 · Educate & Explain to Others

★ Daily Deck

Pasteurized milk is important for people's health because it removes harmful germs that can cause illness.

Brainstorm at least six ideas, group them, and write three distinct topic sentences.

Underline the one that most clearly connects to safety.





Bucket by Bucket Support

Small-Group Support

★ Daily Deck

Read one card aloud at a time and have students sort into Conflict, Fairness, or Safety/Order.

This group is about...

The biggest idea in this group is...

A topic sentence for this group could be...

Laws were needed because _____

Hear ye, hear ye, reasons are near me.



Magnify Across Texts

Enrichment · Write in your notebook

Combine reasons from both texts under a paired thesis (central idea) and select three distinct big ideas.

Brainstorm reasons from both texts. Mark which passage each idea comes from.

Gather and Group

Narrow and Choose

Say It and Connect

★ My Progress Tracker

This tracker is for **YOU!** As you read and write this week, look at each skill. If you can do it all by yourself, color in the box that matches how you feel. Be honest, this helps you see how much you are growing!

I Can...	Not Yet	Getting It	I've Got It!
Brainstorm many reasons before I choose.	Not Yet	Getting It	I've Got It!
Group like-minded reasons and explain why they belong together.	Not Yet	Getting It	I've Got It!
Narrow each group into one big idea.	Not Yet	Getting It	I've Got It!
Choose three different big ideas.	Not Yet	Getting It	I've Got It!
Write three complete topic sentences, one per group.	Not Yet	Getting It	I've Got It!
Connect each topic sentence to the thesis (central idea).	Not Yet	Getting It	I've Got It!
Connect smaller reasons to the correct topic sentence.	Not Yet	Getting It	I've Got It!
Develop a reason with evidence, explanation, and significance.	Not Yet	Getting It	I've Got It!
Revise a repeated or unclear topic sentence.	Not Yet	Getting It	I've Got It!
Teach a partner how to brainstorm, group, narrow, and say it.	Not Yet	Getting It	I've Got It!

★ Citizenship Connection

Good Citizens · Our Community & Country

★ Self-government and responsible citizenship

Communities write laws so everyone is treated fairly, and scientists share discoveries so everyone can stay healthy. Both are ways people take care of one another.

Reflect & Discuss

How do fair rules and shared knowledge help a community keep people safe?

Let's Look at an Answer!

Prompt: Explain WHY laws were needed in "Why We Need Laws."

LOW

People argued over land. Some people took food. Laws helped people.

What Is Working: Names details from the poem.

What Needs Improvement: No thesis (central idea), clear paragraph-sized reason, evidence connection, or explanation.

Let's Look at Another Answer!

Prompt: Explain WHY laws were needed in "Why We Need Laws."

MEDIUM

Laws were needed because people argued. Laws were needed because people argued loudly. Laws were needed because people argued over land.

What Is Working: Attempts three topic sentences about conflict.

What Needs Improvement: Distinct reasons: all three sentences come from the same group.

Our Strongest Answer!

Prompt: Explain WHY laws were needed in "Why We Need Laws."

HIGH

Laws were needed because they helped stop arguments from growing into bigger conflicts. They were also needed because they protected fairness when some people tried to take more than others. Finally, laws created safety and order for the community. In the poem, some people took more food while others had too little. This shows that laws helped protect people from unfairness and made community life more peaceful.

What Is Working: Conflict topic sentence: Names preventing arguments from becoming bigger conflicts. Fairness topic sentence: Names protecting people from others taking more than their share. Safety/Order topic sentence: Names a safe, orderly community as a different big idea. Evidence and explanation: The food-sharing detail supports Fairness; the explanation connects it to protection from unfairness. Connection to the thesis (central idea): The three reasons develop the supplied central idea. Each topic sentence comes from a different narrowed group.

★ **This is our target!**